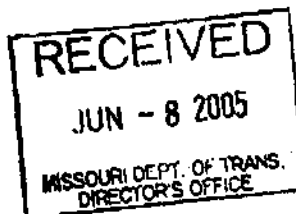




June 8, 2005

Honorable Matt Blunt
Governor
State of Missouri
216 State Capitol
Jefferson City, MO 65102



Dear Governor Blunt:

This letter is to express support for a proposal from the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) to reuse sections from an abandoned railroad bridge over the Missouri River near Booneville. As you are aware, the UP is requesting to float trusses from that bridge on a barge down river for reuse in the construction of a second railroad bridge over the Osage River near the confluence of the Missouri River. Adding this second railroad bridge over the Osage would eliminate a major railroad bottleneck in the area, as the approaches to the existing single-track bridge are double-track from both directions.

Double tracking the bridge and eliminating the existing bottleneck would greatly reduce freight congestion in the area and improve the overall flow of rail traffic on the UP mainline between St. Louis and Kansas City. This line is also utilized by our own state supported passenger trains which provide daily service to 10 Missouri communities.

Our research shows us that the number one driver of customer satisfaction is On-Time-Performance (OTP). Our four daily passenger trains on the St. Louis to Kansas City corridor suffer from chronic OTP issues largely due to congestion problems at a handful of choke points on the railroad. Eliminating the bottleneck at the Osage River Bridge would have a significant positive impact on Amtrak's operations on that corridor and we hope that this project will move forward.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on this important project.

Sincerely,

Ray Lang
Director, Government Affairs
Amtrak

cc: Pete Rahn, Director, MoDOT